

**SECRET**

**SENSITIVE**

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOSCO 184//  
TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT/VAIL  
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S E C R E T SENSITIVE WH61133

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOSCO 184

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED  
ITEM NO: 3 DATE: AUGUST 21, 1976  
SUBJECT: KOREAN SITUATION AS OF 1:00 P.M. EDT 21 AUGUST  
REF : FBIS

ANEMB SEOUL 6250, 210448Z 21 AUG  
BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

THE NORTH KOREAN REACTION TO THE TREE CLEARING OPERATION CONTINUES TO BE MARKEDLY RESTRAINED. PYONGYANG'S INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE FIRST REPORTED THE EVENT AT 0600 EDT AUGUST 21, SOME 11 HOURS AFTER THE OPERATION WAS COMPLETED. DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT AS A SECOND GRAVE PROVOCATION, THE BROADCAST ACCUSED THE US OF USING "EVERY CONCEIVABLE MEANS" TO ENTRAP NORTH KOREA IN WAR PROVOCATION MANEUVERS. THE REPORT CONCLUDED WITH A DEMAND FOR DISCREET US DEPORTMENT.

NORTH KOREAN ARMED FORCES REMAIN IN A HIGH STATE OF READINESS, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN DETECTED.

MOSCOW OR PEKING HAVE YET TO REACT TO THE U.S. TREE CUTTING OPERATION. THEIR PRESS TREATMENT OF THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT ALONG THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, HOWEVER, STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT INCREASED TENSIONS THERE. YESTERDAY AFTER A LAPSE OF THREE DAYS, PRAVDA REACTED TO THE INITIAL INCIDENT WITH A PARTIAL ACCOUNT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, AVOIDING ANY COMMENT OF ITS OWN. THE CHINESE MEDIA HAS LIKEWISE HELD THE KOREA SITUATION AT ARMS LENGTH. IN ITS FIRST OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DISPUTE, THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY YESTERDAY REPLAYED PYONGYANG'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT. E-2 IMPDET.

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